

An Edel/Easton Christmas Break Reading Gift

**Goal:** obtain deep understanding of ecological principles and conservation ethics while interacting with a historical piece of American Literature.

**Assignment:** Read Aldo Leopold’s, “A Sand County Almanac” over the winter break. Write a 2 page reflection for each of the four major sections of the book.

Section 1: A Sand County Almanac

Section 2: The Quality of Landscape

Section 3: A Taste for Country

Section 4: The Upshot

**Reflections:** Each reflection will have two big ideas:

1. How does this relate to what we are learning in biology?

Choose a passage, essay, or sections that strike you as meaningful, important, or insightful and reflect on how it relates to the concepts we are learning in class.

1. Aldo Leopold is an exceptional writer. He uses metaphors, analogies, and vocabulary to convey messages and stories. Write a reflection on an essay, paragraph, or section that you find effective or significant. How does Leopold use words to get his message through to the reader?
2. Reflections will be due when we return from Xmas break.

**Culminating Assignment:** Upon completion, each student will write an original essay in the style of the author based on an ecological principle or conservation challenge of choice. (Details to come)

**Final Comment:** My goal in giving this assignment is not to keep you busy over the winter break. My goal is to provide you an opportunity to gain deeper understanding of our natural world and the unhealthy condition it is in. I feel this is one of the most eloquent and important books ever written about American conservation. Please give it a chance, spend some quiet time reading and thinking.

“*One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to the laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.”*

-Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac